MIT's **Oldest and Largest** Newspaper



The Weather

Today: Cloudy, snow, 38°F (3°C) Tonight: Mostly cloudy, 23°F (–5°C) Tomorrow: Snow, 34°F (1°C) Details, Page 2

Volume 124, Number 60

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Wednesday, January 5, 2005

No MIT Students Hurt by Asian Tsunami

By Beckett W. Sterner

No student at MIT is known to have been killed or injured in the tsunami that hit countries on the Indian Ocean's coast, MIT administrators said, although many students who may have been affected have not yet confirmed their status-

Many students have made an effort in the relief work through organizing fundraising efforts, donating money, and traveling to help out in person.

Danielle Guichard-Ashbrook, director of the International Students Office, said she has been working on contacting the approximately 300 international students from the most heavily hit countries such as Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

So far, about 50 have responded, and all of them have said they are fine, she said. "They are checking in," she said, but "in those affected regions... the infrastructure is still pretty sketchy.'



MIT students are hosting a booth this week to raise money for the tsunami disaster relief effort.

"The thing we don't know about is families," said Robert M. Randolph, senior associate dean for stu-

He said the Alumni Association has also set up a message board on its Web site for people to post updates on their or another alum's status. Administrators had not heard of any student directly impacted through any channel as of yesterday.

Students assist in aid

Many students have taken a personal interest in helping survivors

"I think that the community is rallying" for the aid effort, Guichard-Ashbrook said.

As individuals world-wide pledge millions of dollars, students at MIT are raising funds for disaster relief. Some will even travel to affected countries to help rebuild in

Vidya Jonnalagadda, a post-doctoral assistant in biological engineering, has been working on a fundraising drive to purchase new fishing boats for communities in the Tamil Nadu state of India.

Working under the auspices of the Association for India's Develop-

Tsunami, Page 8

IAP: Students Pick Two Week Vacation Over Six

By Jeffrey Chang STAFF REPORTER

MIT students will be enjoying the annual January break from the daily grind of classes to pursue a wide range

Feature of activities this

ties this Independent Activities Period. IAP offers everything from crash courses in C++ to calligraphy, internships, conferences, research projects, classes, games, and sports. Some are tackling several different activities, taking full advantage of the myriad of opportunities.

Students multitask during IAP

Clarence Lee '06 will be work-

ing on a UROP with the E-Rationality group at the MIT Media Lab. With others, he will be modifying the Web site and database for The Matchup, an online Internet dating service for area college students.

"We'll be improving the aesthetics of the Web site, changing the look and feel of it, making it more user-friendly," Lee said.

Lee will also be working with a team of around ten students to help organize the first annual MIT Tech Fair, the brainchild of Raymond R.

"The idea is to bring companies like IBM, Bose, and Raytheon to come at the end of IAP and showcase their latest innovations and

technologies," said Lee. The event will take place at the end of January, and "we're looking to continue the Tech Fair in following years, and make it a tradition," Lee said.

Alexis R. DeSieno '05 said her plans changed abruptly Tuesday morning when she found out she was going to be traveling to Durham, England for the CMI Enterprisers program. "It should be a good multicultural experience and a good chance to talk to people... I'm thinking about going into biotech companies in the future, so this is a great opportunity for networking and learning how an entrepreneur works," DeSieno said.

She had already started an

externship at the Cambridge-based pharmaceutical company Genzyme. She said she will continue with the externship immediately upon her return from England and will continue into February to make up for the time lost in England.

Her work at Genzyme involves the analysis of statistics on diseases from incident rates and the geographic distribution of diseases to the financial market for drugs to combat them.

On top of this and helping to plan the Jan. 31 MIT Tech Fair, as the event vice-director and organizing the first annual Biomedical

IAP, Page 10

CLC Hears Case on Simmons Incident

By Kelley Rivoire

The Cambridge License Commission held a hearing last night regarding underage drinking during an unregistered party held at Simmons Hall on Oct. 10 last year. The CLC will make a decision on a possible disciplinary action against Simmons in the next several weeks, and the severest possible punishment would be the revocation of Simmons' housing license.

David A. Nedzel '07, Simmons president and Dormitory Council Judicial Committee chair, said he thought the hearing went well and that the steps taken regarding the incident were well represented to

Simmons Housemaster John M. Essigmann called the hearing fair.

CLC expresses concern

Among the main concerns of the CLC were the lack of dormitory security that allowed such a large number of people to enter the dormitory unnoticed in a short period of time, and whether the serious nature of the incident was made clear to Simmons residents.

"It appears that the only thing that attracts attention is a tragedy; ... no one ever makes the news when a plane lands safely," CLC Chair Benjamin C. Barnes said.

Daniel Trujillo, associate dean for Community Development and Substance Abuse Programs, recom-

CLC, Page 8

Fewer Int'l Students Enroll For Fourth Year in a Row

By Jiao Wang

The number of international graduate students at MIT declined this year by three percent, consistent with a nationwide trend of lower enrollment of foreign students at top U.S. universities. According to the Registrar's Office, the number of international students has been dropping since the 2001-2002 school year from an initial number of about 2,500.

One reason for the decline may be that "America feels less welcoming to internationals," said Dean of Admissions Marilee Jones. She said that internationals may not agree with policies regarding the war in Iraq and that visas have been harder for students to obtain following changes in U.S. policy.

In addition, an increase in funding and programs offered by other countries such as England and China have made these programs more attractive than before, drawing students away from the U.S., Jones

Number of int'ls varies by dept.

The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering experienced the sharpest drop in international graduate students, a decline of 19 percent compared to last year. In the Departments of Nuclear Engineering, Ocean Engineering, and Aeronautics and Astronautics, the number of international students decreased by approximately twelve percent.

However, Peggy Carney, an administrator in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, said that the percentage of international students in the department had increased from twenty to thirty percent over the last

Internationals, Page 11



Paul Mank works on redecorating the old Arrow Street Crepes to be Anna's Taqueria in the Student Center. Anna's is scheduled to open on Feb. 1. (See story on page 9.)

NEWS

Anna's to open on Feb. 1

Former MIT prof to head DOE

Night Owl busline may close

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Page 9

Progress on replacing the cashier's office

PUBLICATION NOTE

The Tech will continue its weekly publishing schedule for IAP, with the next issue coming out on Jan. 12.



Catch up on weeks of *Dilbert* and Foxtrot!

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World & Nation ... 2 **Opinion** 4 Sports12 Page 2 THE TECH January 5, 2005

WORLD & NATION

U.S. Seeks to Neutralize Iraqi Support For Insurgents From Syria

By Douglas Jehl

WASHINGTO

The Bush administration is considering imposing new sanctions on Syria to prod it to crack down on Iraqis there who are providing financial and logistical support to insurgents in Iraq, senior U.S. counterterrorism officials said Tuesday.

The Syrian government has not taken action against the network of Iraqis, the officials said, despite months of quiet protests from the United States. Among the steps being considered is a Treasury Department action that could essentially isolate the Syrian banking system.

The network includes former officials of Saddam Hussein's government, U.S. officials have said, adding that intelligence gathered in recent months from informants, captives and intercepted communications suggested that the network's role in providing support to insurgents in Iraq was more extensive than previously suspected.

As Congress Opens, House Passes Bill to Protect DeLay

By Carl Hulse

ASHINGTO

House Republicans pushed through a significant change in the handling of ethics complaints over strong Democratic objections Tuesday as the 109th Congress convened with a burst of pomp and partisanship.

The House, on a vote of 220-195, enacted a change that would effectively dismiss a complaint in the event of a deadlock among members of the ethics committee, which is divided equally between Democrats and Republicans. Its approval followed a Republican retreat Monday on other proposed ethics revisions.

At the heart of both actions were calculations about how far Republicans should go to protect the House majority leader, Rep. Tom DeLay of Texas. There was widespread dissatisfaction in the party over three admonishments delivered to DeLay last year by the ethics committee. At the same time, some Republicans were uncomfortable retaining a party rule adopted in November that was intended to shield DeLay from having to step down from his leadership post if he was indicted in a campaign finance investigation in Texas. Republicans said the new approach to handling a deadlock on the ethics panel would instill more bipartisanship in the process and protect lawmakers from purely partisan attacks.

Study Calls for Stronger Discipline Of Incompetent Doctors

By Robert Pear

NEW YORK TIMES W

Experts retained by the Bush administration said Tuesday that more effective disciplining of incompetent doctors could significantly alleviate the problem of medical malpractice litigation.

As President Bush prepared to head to Illinois on Wednesday to campaign for limits on malpractice lawsuits, the experts said that states should first identify those doctors most likely to make mistakes that injure patients and lead to lawsuits.

The administration recently commissioned a study by the University of Iowa and the Urban Institute to help state boards of medical examiners in disciplining doctors.

"There's a need to protect the public from substandard performance by physicians," said Josephine Gittler, a law professor at the University of Iowa supervising part of the study. "If you had more aggressive policing of incompetent physicians and more effective disciplining of doctors who engage in substandard practice, that could decrease the type of negligence that leads to malpractice suits."

Governor of Baghdad Killed By Gunnen Amidst Bombings

By Richard A. Oppel Jr. THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

Gunmen assassinated the governor of Baghdad province on Tuesday as insurgents pressed a campaign to derail elections scheduled for Jan. 30. The governor, Ali al-Haidari, is the highest-ranking Iraqi official slain since May.

The killing came just as a fueltruck bomb detonated near an office of the Interior Ministry and the main U.S. compound in central Baghdad, killing 10 people and wounding about 60. And it came on a day that five U.S. soldiers fell in three other attacks, according to military officials.

It was the bloodiest day for the United States since the Dec. 21 suicide bombing at a mess tent in Mosul, which killed 14 soldiers and four American contractors.

Iraq's homegrown security forces are bearing the brunt of the intimidation and attacks, with eight Interior Ministry commandos dying in the bomb attack on Tuesday. That brings to nearly 70 the number of Iraqi police, national guardsmen and commandos who have been abducted and murdered, or killed by car bombs or other means in the past week.

The violence prompted a fresh round of calls to delay the elections. Iraq's president and most senior Sunni Arab official, Ghazi al-Yawer, suggested that the United Nations examine whether national elections should be delayed. In an interview with Reuters, he said holding the elections on schedule would be a "tough call."

In recent weeks, U.S. officials — including President Bush — have pointed to al-Yawer as an example of a Sunni Arab leader willing to move forward with the elections despite violence in Sunni-dominated areas of the country.

But the Iraqi foreign minister, Hoshyar Zebari, who is regarded as a closer ally to Iraq's prime minister, Ayad Allawi, vigorously rejected calls for a delay on Tuesday and said any change in the timetable would be tantamount to a surrender to insurgents whose campaign of violence has been aimed at derailing the vote.

Sunni leaders worry they will be disenfranchised if the vote goes forward in the rest of the country while being short-circuited in the Sunni areas. But U.S. officials say the violence will only continue if the election is delayed.

In Washington, the White House press secretary, Scott McClellan, reiterated Bush's call for a Jan. 30 ballot. "What we are focused on right now is doing everything we can to support the situation on the ground by improving the security situation and making sure that we can see as full participation as possible in those elections," McClellan said.

Al-Haidari was the most senior Iraqi official assassinated since the president of the Iraqi Governing Council, Ezzedine Salim, an Islamist politician and writer, was killed by a suicide bomber on May 17.

In Phuket, Thailand, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell said he was saddened by the murder. "It once again shows that there are these murderers and terrorists, former regime elements in Iraq, that don't want to see an election," he said. "They don't want to see the people of Iraq choose their own leadership. They want to go back to the past."

The terror group headed by al-Qaida's leader in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, claimed responsibility for the attack in an Internet posting, calling al-Haidari an "autocrat" and his killing part of an effort to "liberate this city and all the country."

Report Indicates Savings Drop On Drug Imports from Canada

By Christopher Rowland

Pressure from U.S. drug companies and more recently President Bush is causing the pendulum to swing against importation of Canadian prescription drugs.

The average savings on popular drugs from Canada dipped sharply to 29 percent in late 2004 from 38 percent in early January 2003, according to a report to be released Wednesday by PharmacyChecker.com, a forprofit Web site that monitors drug prices

A key reason for the decline in savings, according to the report, was pharmaceutical manufacturers imposing supply curbs on Canadian wholesalers.

Meanwhile, the trade group rep-

resenting Canadian Internet pharmacies, which have built cross-border shipments to Americans into a \$700 million industry in just a few years, said Tuesday it is bracing for a crackdown by Prime Minister Paul Martin's government.

The trade group said the government's plan for a crackdown picked up steam after a discussion between Martin and Bush during the president's trade visit to Ottawa on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1.

"This is ultimately a result of the pressure by George Bush on the Canadian government," said David MacKay, executive director of Canadian International Pharmacy Association, which is based in the province of Manitoba, home of the highest concentration of Canada's 120 Inter-

net pharmacies

Canadian Health Minister Ujall Dosanjh has confirmed that Bush discussed the Canadian importation issue with Martin during the trade talks. A spokesman for Dosanjh, Ken Polk, without naming Bush directly, said Tuesday that members of the American trade team told Martin that it "might be difficult" for Bush to veto a bill legalizing imports if the U.S. Congress passes one next year.

The warning has stoked Canadian concerns that if imports are legalized in the United States, increased demand from U.S. consumers would drain Canada's supply. Dosanjh said during a recent visit to Harvard Medical School in Boston that Canada could not serve as medicine chest for Americans looking for bargains.

WEATHER

Some Snow on the Way

By Roberto Rondonelli

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

An upper level "jet streak" or patch of maximum wind speed is moving along the main upper level flow centered right north of Massachusetts. Right now we find ourselves in the jet streak exit and according to the ageostrophic balance rule of thumb we expect to transition from upper level convergence to upper level divergence. This in turn means that ascending motion (one of the two main ingredients of precipitation) will begin to influence our

Then not surprisingly, a weak low pressure is expected to pass over the southern New England area. The storm will leave Boston in the margin of the precipitation area and there is a chance of 2 or less inches of snow accumulation. A stronger system will move towards Southern New England Wedenesday night to Thursday, bringing snow during Thursday morning changing into ice and sleet during the afternoon. After that some sunshine and relatively warm temperatures are expected again for Friday.

Extended Forecast:

Today: Cloudy, snow or sleet likely. High 38°F (3°C)

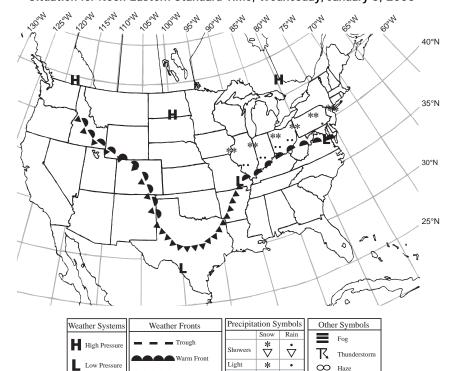
Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Low 23°F (-5°)

Thursday: Snow showers temperatures in the 20s during the morning,

warming during the late afternoon. High 34°F (1°C)

Friday: Partly cloudy and much warmer. Low $32^{\circ}F$ (0°C) High $43^{\circ}F$ (6°C)

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Wednesday, January 5, 2005



Global Aid for Tsunami Victims Stepped Up as Hurdles Develop

By Scott Shane

JAKARTA, INDONESIA

Fresh infusions of aid on Tuesday gave yet more push to the global relief effort for Asia as it confronted monsoon rains, logistical breakdowns and the urgent need for everything from earth-moving equipment to trucks in the struggle to reach the most remote survivors.

Jan Egeland, the U.N. emergency coordinator, acknowledged the many obstacles but called the global response "phenomenal" on a day when Germany committed \$669 million before a meeting here on Thursday of donor nations who will discuss how to coordinate more than \$2 billion pledges.

With television broadcasts showing American servicemen delivering aid to victims of the last week's tsunami, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell candidly acknowledged the hope that the U.S. military help and its \$350 million contribution might improve America's image in the Islamic world. Indonesia, home of two-thirds of the estimated 150,000 people who have died, is the world's largest Muslim nation.

"We'd be doing it regardless of religion," Powell said here on the second day of his tour through the region with Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida. "But I think it does give the Muslim world and the rest of the world an opportunity to see American generosity, American values in action."

"America is not an anti-Islam, anti-Muslim nation," Powell added in his remarks to reporters alongside the Indonesian prime minister, Hassan Wirojuda. "America is a diverse society where we respect all religions. And I hope that as a result of our efforts, as a result of our helicopter pilots being seen by the citizens of Indonesia helping them, that value system of ours will be reinforced."

For his part, Wirojuda, a Harvard Law School graduate, went out of his way to praise the performance of the U.S. military in the aid effort. "We particularly appreciate the crucial role that the U.S. armed forces play in providing helicopters for relief assistance for victims and survivors at the remote and isolated areas," he said.

Gonzales' Role in Torture Ruling To be Key Issue in Senate Hearing

By David Johnston and Neil A. Lewis THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Alberto R. Gonzales, the White House counsel, intervened directly with Justice Department lawyers in 2002 to obtain a legal ruling on the extent of the president's authority to permit extreme interrogation practices in the name of national security, current and former administration officials said Tuesday.

Gonzales' role in seeking a legal opinion on the definition of torture and the legal limits of how much force could be used on terrorist suspects in captivity is expected to be a central issue in the Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearings, which are scheduled to begin on Thursday on his nomination to be attorney general.

The request by Gonzales produced the much-debated Aug. 1, 2002, memorandum by the Justice Department that defined torture narrowly and said that Bush could circumvent domestic and international prohibitions against torture in the name of national security.

Until now, administration officials have been unwilling to provide details about what role Gonzales had in the production of the memorandum by the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel. He has spoken of the memo as a response to questions, without saying that most of them were his.

Current and former officials who talked about the memorandum have been provided with first-hand accounts about how it was prepared. Some discussed it in an

attempt to clear up what they viewed as a murky record in advance of Gonzales' confirmation hearing. Others spoke of the matter apparently believing that the Justice Department had unfairly taken the blame for the memo.

A White House spokeswoman, Erin Healy, said Tuesday that while Gonzales personally requested the August opinion, he was only seeking "objective legal advice and did not ask the Office of Legal Counsel to reach any specific conclusion."

As the White House's chief lawyer, Gonzales supervised the production of a raft of legal memorandums that shaped the administration's legal framework for conducting its battle against al-Qaida and other terrorist groups. Of the documents that have been made public, Gonzales is the author of only one.

Pentagon Toughens Policy On Sexual Assault

By David Stout

THE NEW YORK TIME

Acknowledging serious flaws in how it has dealt with sexual assaults within the military, the Pentagon announced steps on Tuesday to prevent the crimes, investigate them more thoroughly when they occur and treat victims with more consideration.

Defense Department officials said that from now on there would be one set of definitions of what constitutes sexual assault for all services, and at every base within each service. There will also be uniform procedures for dealing with accusers and the accused, the officials said.

"The department understands that our traditional system does not afford sexual-assault victims the care and support they need across the board, and we are moving aggressively to put new systems in place to address this shortcoming," David S.C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, said at a Pentagon briefing.

Until now, every military branch has had its own programs to deal with sexual assault, said Brig. Gen. K.C. McClain of the Air Force, who was named last September to a newly created post, policy chief for sexual assault prevention and response.

A key component of the new policy is the appointment of a sexual assault response coordinator at every U.S. military installation in the world. The coordinator will follow a case from accusation through resolution, with particular attention to helping the victim, Chu said. "It has an acronym, like all Pentagon titles: SARC," he said.

Panel Lists Drugs It Wants New Law to Cover

By Robert Pear

THE NEW YORK TIME

WASHINGTON

A federal advisory panel, working closely with the Bush administration, announced a list of 146 types of prescription drugs on Monday that should be covered under Medicare's new drug benefit.

The panel, the U.S. Pharmacopeia, a venerable organization that sets standards for the pharmaceutical industry, said prescription drug plans should offer beneficiaries at least two drugs of each type. Insurers that follow the recommendations will be presumed to meet one of the major criteria in the new Medicare law.

The executive vice president of the panel, Dr. Roger L. Williams, said its guidelines were "the only classification system specifically developed" to ensure that beneficiaries had access to all the drugs that they needed.

Some advocates for patients said the guidelines did not guarantee coverage for new costly effective drugs that might be needed to treat certain disorders, including some mental impairments.available."

The writing of the guidelines touched off a huge battle between insurance and drug companies that could determine how many medicines will be readily available to beneficiaries.

Under the law, officials will rely on private health plans to deliver drug benefits to the elderly and disabled starting next year.

Free tickets for MIT students

2 great concerts = one great weekend!

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Saturday, January 22, 2005 8:00pm Jordan Hall at New England Conservatory

Boston Connection

Michael McLaughlin, Murder (2003) (Selected score from the 7th annual NEC/BMOP composition contest)

Elliott Schwartz, Chamber Concerto IV (1978) (Winner of the 6th annual NEC/BMOP concerto competition)

Donald Martino, Concertino for Clarinet and Orchestra (2003)

William Thomas McKinley, "Childhood Memories" Concerto for Marimba and Orchestra (2004)

Eric Chasalow, Concerning Sunspots (2004)

TICKETS AVAILABLE
at the MIT Office of the Arts: E15-205
T, W, and Th from 10am - 4pm
One ticket per valid MIT student ID

Collage New Music

Sunday, January 23, 2005 7:30 p.m. Paine Hall, Harvard University

Steve Reich, Nagoya Marimbas (1994)

Morton Feldman, False Relationships and the Extended Ending (1968)

Osvaldo Golijov, Mariel (2003)

Pierre Boulez, sur Incises (1999) (Boston Premiere)

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Simply present your MIT student ID at the box office on the night of the performance

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http://web.mit.edu/arts/see/freetickets/index.html

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Letters To The Editor

Medical Response Not Standard

There are two primary goals in addressing what appears to be a serious mental health problem at a university ["Mental Health Response Criticized," Dec. 7]:

The first is to respond to the immediate need, including counseling, crisis care, and leave of absence.

The second, if suspension is imposed, is to immediately begin planning for readmission.

I did not see mention of planning for readmission as part of continuity of care, that ought to be corrected.

Your article raises several other issues also of concern: Restraint is not "standard procedure." Isolation from school work is also not "standard procedure," and certainly having no access to a change of clothes is not "standard procedure." All are indications of a need for more thorough planning in response to student health care. And I would keep in mind, that this is first and foremost health care.

Harold A. Maio Consulting Editor, Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal Boston University

Knowledgable Reviewers Wanted

I could not have been more disappointed

with *The Tech*'s review of Saturday's [Dec. 5, 2004] Chorallaries concert.

First of all, a newspaper should send someone at least vaguely familiar with a cappella (or music in general) to review a concert. Mr Marrufo failed to recognize the obvious talent of both The Method and the Chorallaries. Yes, the background vocals were fantastic, but the solos demonstrated the singers' ability to capture an audience. I seriously doubt that you could find another person to complain about the concert. The wild applause the groups received and chants of encore only serve to prove my point.

Secondly, Andrew Harlan's strip tease added an element of surprise and entertainment that served to please the crowd, not hide an obviously amazing falsetto. For future reference, send knowledgeable, not disinterested staff members to review student productions.

Katelyn Giovannucci '07

Telling MIT What It Doesn't Want to Hear

If I correctly read the articles by Karen Arenson ["Colleges Add More Counseling Amid Suicide Increase," World and Nation, Dec. 5] and Beckett Sterner "Mental Health Response Criticized," Dec. 7], the Institute's response to situations involving students' mental health is uneven. When anyone who is suffering denies the seriousness of their distress, it is very hard — for friends, family

members and college staff — to know what to do and then even more difficult to do something, whatever action is chosen, with appropriate care and concern.

Without judging any of the situations described in the articles — neither am I a professional in the field of mental health nor do I work directly with students — I invite MIT community members who are interested to volunteer to assist with IAP's Charm School in our workshop "How To Tell Somebody Something They'd Rather Not Hear."

In this workshop, people learn and teach others a simple conversational formula (it's MIT, we do formulas!) that can be used in an honest and respectful way to raise a wide range issues. Obviously, sloppiness or bad breath are trival concerns compared to sleeping too much and missing classes, as the latter may — or may not — indicate mental health concerns. But we can all benefit from practice in expressing concern to others and asking for help for ourselves.

Eve Odiorne Sullivan Laboratory for Nuclear Science

Erratum

A news story on Friday, Dec 5 incorrectly gave the contact e-mail for applying to run for the MIT Federal Credit Union Board of Directors. It is *john@jmatarese.com*.



Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, opinion editors, a senior editor, and an opinion staffer.

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America: The Trillion-Dollar Nightmare

Basil Enwegbara

This is where America got it wrong. This is where America's continued belief in an indefinite borrowing power is wrong. America cannot afford to go on borrowing as if we were still in the Cold War, when it controlled more than half of the world's economy, which allowed it to dictate to the rest of the world.

Now, the US must ask these fundamental questions: Who will be responsible for the present economic problems caused by excessive

borrowing and spending? For how long do Americans think this extravaganza can go on before other nations begin to walk

What about the Federal Reserve?

Has it recognized that its self-appointed role as the world's central bank is over?

away from the dollar? How will the US reposition its economic leadership in today's global economy? Will President Bush's recent announcements to stop the dollar's bleeding by cutting and bringing down the deficit be taken seriously by those nations that pay the price of continued investment in the dollar?

Most importantly, Americans must ask themselves this: is supremacy in the 21st century going to continue to emerge from military might or is going stem from trade power?

Leading economists have for sometime now debated America's current predicament, and in so doing, they have repeatedly warned Washington about the price tag of its excessive public borrowing. These experts have concurred that the pressure on the dollar has grown beyond what they call the dollar's carrying capacity.

Washington seems far less concerned. These public policy entrepreneurs seem busy loading more and more burden on the dollar than looking for ways to unload some.

Now that the whole thing is about to burst, with most countries feeling uneasy relying on the dollar as the universal currency, is Washington ready to do something to avoid danger? Is this a wake up call for Washington? What about the Federal Reserve? Has it recognized that its self-appointed role as the world's central bank is over?

America, with its rapidly aging economy, has only a few options to exploit in a world where young and energetic economies are emerging as the world's economic engine. It will require, first and foremost, every measure to save its national currency, should the US dollar continue to be the world's universal currency in which other nations have confidence. Saving the dollar will require totally overhauling aging economic and social institutions created in an era when the U.S. had no rival. This is where the problem lies.

Any political party that tries to overhaul this obsolete economic system will become a political outcast overnight. No party is ready for that challenge right now, so denial seems to be the best answers politicians have.

While China and India are cruising at full speed ahead, Washington watches helplessly. US companies now know their survival depends on their ability to produce competitively by cutting costs or migrating to where both costs and corporate responsibilities are lower. Without the power to pass off rising health care and social security costs, and the rising oil prices, the US is far less ready for today's hyper-competitive global market. This current hopelessness is forcing arch-nationalists like Lou Dobbs of CNN to publicly denounce globalization. Right or wrong, they blame America's difficulties simply on global free trade. But rather than make adjustments, Americans have

been told to continue with their insatiable consumption trends. "Don't worry, other nations will take care of your inability to produce," is what everyone believes. And that is the kind of message the current tax-free message is sending. It is no longer what you can do for your country, but rather what your country can do for you. Believing in this new kind of American Dream has led to the current economic deadend. It has reinforced a culture of low savings, dependency on foreign capital as the major source of investment, and revived the \$400 billion annual military expenditure put on hold

during the 1990s with the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Does one need to be an expert to know that America's current figures are not adding up? China, India definitely know

Japan, South Korea, and India definitely know that. They are no fools to continue providing the difference. Providing the difference, they fully understand, is simply loaning America money to continue spending on their goods. So, every American job loss is their job gain; and America's deficit is their surplus.

It's only a matter of time before these countries begin to stand toe to toe with America. When that happens, they will then make the same claims America made on Britain at the beginning of the 20th century: "You now must pay us in gold or accept ours as the new currency of trade; whichever you can afford, pay us." Just like America, China will not hesitate to impose its interests on the rest of the world, including forcing OPEC and other major oil producing nations to sell oil in renminbi. In fact, China will seize every opportunity to make renminbi replace the dollar as the universal currency.

But is America really out of the game? There are enough reasons to believe not. First, America is no British Empire. Its middle-class is so enormous, it will take both China and India the next 30 years or so to successfully build one large enough to be a rival. Second, America's brainpower reservoir is huge and yet to be fully tapped. Its leading centers of knowledge like MIT, Stanford University, California Institute of Technology, Harvard University, and Johns Hopkins University to name a few, are preparing for the fiercest knowledge battle of this century. Third, and most important, America's enormous entrepreneurial class still is the envy of the world; dynamic, creative, confident, optimistic, self-driven, and never-yielding energetic men and women ready to take the risk and suffer whatever pain in order to win. Where else, if not in America, can four 27-year old founders of Sun Microsystems, who, with virtually no business or industry experience, rise to beat the entire world of established industry superstars?

While China and India are no Japan because of their colossal populations, they too have fragile and undeveloped domestic markets. Their inability to expand the local consumer base as a possible shock absorber puts them on high risk and at the mercy of American consumers. When America reacts — which no doubt it will when the time comes - against its status as a dumping ground for Asian products, the inability to rally round domestic markets alternatives will have dramatic and uncontrollable consequences. Economic meltdowns will not be the only fallout. Social and political dislocations also may trigger massive unrests. America fully knows it has this winning card. It is not a question of if, but when will America play this card. There can be no doubt that when it comes under immense domestic pressure, America will.



Poverty and Education

Our indolence and near

recreational political debate have

very real victims today, and sow

a dangerous social, spiritual, and

economic future for our country.

Ken Nesmith

We frequently make the assumption that because the private market is driven by the profit motive, goods like healthcare, education, and transportation should not be left to the market. If they are, the poor will suffer. Public finance experts like to talk about this problem in terms of "market failures": if something that people want is not available on the market at the price they want it, the market has failed. Market failures are used to justify government intervention in healthcare, unemployment insurance, welfare payments, and other areas of public life.

There are problems with the assumption

that the poor are hurt in a free market environment. Often, we decline to consider those problems, and become locked in to a belief that government needs to provide goods like education. Unfortunately, we preclude ourselves

from finding solutions to genuine problems by doing so.

Our country has a weak educational system. We lag behind most of the world in basic tests of skills taught in elementary and high school. Inner-city schools are especially problematic. Some reformers propose that more money be spent. Unfortunately, throwing more money at this problem has never solved it; furthermore, public schools spend far more per student than private schools and do a worse job at educating their pupils. Others propose letting parents choose where to send their children to school, to create a bit of competition between schools and introduce a new pressure to reform and succeed. Objectors warn that this will drain money from failing public schools, and the poorest will be hurt.

Depending on how you define a "crisis point," some schools are either at it or are approaching it. But few U.S. schools have gotten as bad as schools in rural India. We might learn something from their experience, documented in the Jan. 3 Financial Times ("A fortunate at the bottom of the pyramid.") In Indian public schools in poor areas, between one third and one half of all teachers are absent at any one time. Those teachers have formed a strong trade union to protect their rights, and so cannot be fired for not working. Public schools in India are simply failing to teach children any of the skills they need to give themselves hope for a better life than their parents, who eke out subsistence as grocery sellers or rickshaw drivers.

In response, parents and students are simply leaving the public schools, and attending the numerous private schools that have sprung up to meet the demand for adequate education. There are over 1000 such "slumeducation entrepreneurs" in Hyderabad, a South Indian city, all created in the last 15 years or so. The schools are not luxurious in the way that we often think of private schools, but they teach effectively. Students learn English, which is not taught in government schools, but is seen as a means of upward mobility and a ticket to a better life. The teachers are not as qualified as public school teachers, and they are paid less than half as much as their unionized counterparts. But because their jobs are not guaranteed by

state fiat, they are present, and teaching. The end result is that children in private schools score higher on almost every subject tested except Urdu and Telugu, the languages used to teach in the public schools.

The Indian government doesn't make this education revolution easy. A host of regulations are in place, designed to ensure a good educational experience. The size of classrooms, the distance between desks, and the size of playgrounds are all specified to avoid crowding and so forth. The students and parents who have prompted the creation of these schools have little need for such regulations, since they can examine a school and its offerings, and choose whether or not to attend freely. But complying with all of the

rules can be difficult to impossible for the private schools, so state inspectors use the rules as a tool to extract bribes. Private schools spend about two percent of their annual revenue on paying state officials to let them remain in existence. It's a small amount, but for the poorest in society, every bit really does matter, and can mean

the difference between having a meal or going hungry. That is the extent of government involvement in these schools — demanding periodic bribes. No help with funding or curriculum is offered, nor is it requested.

Nonetheless, they succeed. For about \$11 a month, a price affordable to this poor sector of the population, these schools offer an education that gives students a chance to succeed in life. In the face of the most miserable conditions, abject poverty, and trying circumstances, these children and their parents refuse to be victims of the system and circumstance. They've bypassed these completely, and lent powerful validation to the free market at an epicenter of poverty. Here in America, commentators consider private schools the exclusive realm of the wealthy. That's an inaccurate characterization that reflects an ignorance of many private schools across the country. But the more important fact is that if regulations and policy allowed it, a demand could arise for inexpensive private schools to offer a basic education at a low price. In India, that's exactly what's hap-

Instead of presenting obstacles to reform as we currently do, we could encourage it. Right now, if parents wanted to take their children out of a public school and into an inexpensive private one, they would have to pay for two educations: one, through their property taxes, and another, in direct tuition to the private school. We could change policy so that they're only charged for one education.

Sadly, we're so strongly tuned to the ethos that "government must provide for the poor because the market will not" that I don't think we'll take any such steps for a long time. Our indolence and near recreational political debate have very real victims today, and sow a dangerous social, spiritual, and economic future for our country. Meanwhile, our students will suffer thanks to our distrust of the free market. We needn't look far from home to see the effects: we can meet some of the victims of our folly by spending time at Boston inner city schools.

Incidentally, the schools I mentioned, those in India serving the poorest in society, are profitable.

Do you have something to say?

We can't hear you.

Write opinion for The Tech!

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Red (states) vs. BLOUX Y Light fuse, run away



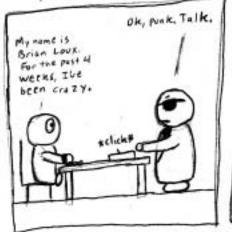


ok! Blue team, seal off the west ... AAUGH!



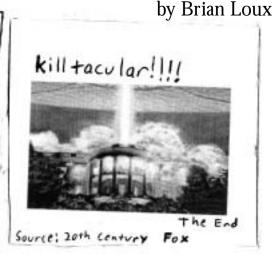
Red (states) VS. BLOOK VI

Truth and Reconciliation



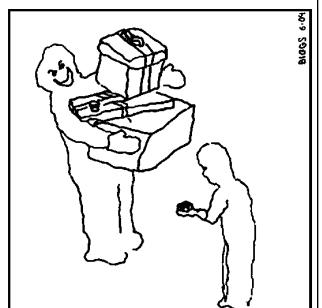






Splatform

by James Biggs



Asymmetry in holiday warfare

KRT Crossword

- Prunes
 Reverberating instruments
- Super Bowl III champs Norway's capital
- Freeze

ACROSS

- Truant from the troops
- In any case Hilo garland
- Kind of bolt or heat
- Bilked Jerks
- Ticket scrap
- Played first Lasting impression
- With 43A, in case of Diver's acronym
- Usual practice
- Commune in Tuscany Mine entrance
- Rumbling with rumors
- See 31A ID's on jerseys
- Self-regard
- Rudiments "Arabian Nights" fellow
- Artist's room Panache
- Tide competitor 59 In no case

Solution, page 9

- Biblical shepherd
- Broke down Catcall 63 64
- Nuisance
- 66 "Demian" writer Checkup

DOWN

- Menial
- Milo or Tessie Prairie
- Barfly
- Offer a favorable bet
- Atlantic or Pacific Uncool kid
- Wrigley product
- Militant Greek city-state
- Esau's twin
- "Return of the Jedi" critter
- Weighty book Iditarod vehicle 12 13
- Ford's lemon?
- for the asking
- Bungler
- Embarrassing display Very steep
- Autobahn auto
- Spoonbill cousi
- Life partner
 "__ Lake"
- Boxcar hopper 33 Cross to bear
- Fork points Chocolate alternative
- Capital of South Australia 42
- Conductor Mehta
- Maturing Word with pine or tape

department)

- 49
 - Rated X _-Maritimes (French
- Attach Hobby wood Chasm
- Break Option for Hamlet Utah team
- 57 Yale alumni High dudgeon

Steady as __ goes!



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Page 8 THE TECH January 5, 2005

Students Help with Tsunami Relief Efforts

Tsunami, from Page 1

ment, which has raised \$1.5 million nationwide, Jonnalagadda said that the MIT community had already been very generous with its dona-

"We were there for five hours [on Monday] and collected nearly 700 dollars," she said, referring to the group's booth in Lobby 10. It takes about two to three thousand dollars to buy a large fishing boat for the community to use.

Public Service Center Director Sally Susnowitz said that the PSC is helping students raise money for two charities, the Sewalanka Foundation and UNICEF. They are also currently gathering donations to provide several public service fellowships this summer for people to work in the reconstruction effort.

Many people "were demoralized by this huge loss of life and want to help," she said, but it is important for people's attention not to wander over time because there will still be

much to do months later.

Students help out at home

Anand Sivaraman, a post-doctoral associate at MIT, has repurposed his vacation this January in order to help those hurt by the tsunami near his home in the city of Chennai.

"I was anyway going to be there," he said, but now "instead of a vacation I'm going to work there," helping on a team of AID workers.

He said that more than 350 volunteers signed up with a program run by AID, predominantly locals to the area but also several from the

"I think the whole administration and the federal government have been so helpful here," he said.

He is not sure what he will work on when he arrives, he said. "I have to get [there] with an open mind and make myself get absorbed with the team already there."

Recent MIT graduate and former Graduate Student Council President Sanith Wijesinghe PhD '03 said that he plans to spend a month volunteering in Sri Lanka.

"My family is out there," he said. "Luckily no one was hurt, but I'm going over to help as best I

He said he will join a team being

sponsored by the Sri Lankan community in New England, and will work on "buying fishing boats, buying fishing nets, trying to get people back on their feet. There's a lot of medical aid" needed by everyone hit by the tsunami.

Hidden Underwater in the Ocean, Tsunamis Grow Fearsome Near Land

By Kathy Dobson

On December 26th, fishermen from Indonesia, Thailand, Southeastern India, Sri Lanka, and even Somolia may have been astonished when they returned home to their coastal villages and found them ravaged by gigantic waves. The tsunamis that had hit the coasts earlier in the day would have passed their boats undetected.

Tsunamis are sea waves that are generated by the displacement of water in the ocean. This displacement is most often caused by earthquakes, but also sometimes by landslides, volcanic eruptions, and objects from outer space.

As a tsunami moves toward the shore and the ocean becomes shallower, water displaced by the propagation of the tsunami is pushed upward, creating a large wall of water. This wall sucks in surrounding water, and often the arrival of a tsunami will be preceded by a rapidly

The velocity of a tsunami is directly proportional to the square root of the depth of the undisturbed ocean. So, regardless of the intensity of the initial disturbance, a tsunami will always travel at the same speed for a given ocean depth. Therefore, as a tsunami approaches a coast, the speed of the wave will slow down. In the deepest parts of the ocean, tsunamis can reach 1000 km/hr (about 600 mi/hr).

A tsunami is dangerous if it carries a lot of energy when it reaches the coast, which depends on the disturbance that caused it.

Paul Whitmore, the scientist in charge at the West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center, said that there are three major ways through which waves can lose energy as they travel: friction with the sea floor or air, viscosity, and spreading. A tsunami traveling across the deep ocean usually dissipates very little energy.

However, tsunamis can lose a lot of energy when they break, said Paul Sclavounos, a professor of Ocean Engineering. This is what makes islands and other land masses with steep shelves more prone to risk, since their topography makes it less likely that an approaching tsunami would break offshore, said Raffaele Ferrari, a professor of earth, atmospheric, and planetary sciences at MIT. Also, the shape of a coast can either focus or spread the oncoming waves; a focused wave causes more devastating effects.

The December 26th tsunami was especially devastating for several reasons. The magnitude of the earthquake that caused the tsunami, at 9.0 on the Richter scale, made it one of the strongest quakes ever recorded. Hence, it generated the largest tsunami in over 40 years, according to the National Weather Service.

Since the rupture was a large crack, close to 1000 km in length, the resulting tsunami did not spread out radially, as it would have with a point source. As a result, the waves that crashed on the coasts close to the epicenter were more focused and especially strong.

Although a tsunami can be as high as 30 meters by the time it ocean are such that vessels far off shore will not sense the ensuing dis-





Changes Made To Secure Simmons

CLC, from Page 1

mended to the CLC "continuing the education process," which "would be very valuable to support Simmons' efforts."

CLC Interim Director Richard Scali said he recommended that Simmons be a leader in the training of students in all dormitories.

Simmons makes changes

Essigmann and Ian Brelinsky '06, president of DormCon and former president of Simmons Hall, spoke to the CLC about the measures taken by Simmons since the incident.

By the end of this week, five cameras will monitor the dormitory; previously, two cameras were located at the back of the building with a third by the dumpster, Essigmann said. In addition, all exterior doors will have alarms to bring attention to any doors propped open, which will limit entry.

At the request of the Simmons Hall government, mandatory community forums were held to allow residents to discuss the importance of drinking responsibly and registering parties, Brelinsky said.

He said that the Simmons government has taken the incident as a mandate for more education awareness programs, which are currently in draft form. DormCon has also created a new risk manager position, Netzel said.

The consequences faced by three students involved in the party "varied from person to person," but were "not a slap on the wrist", said Essigmann.

The specific punishments are confidential due to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, said William M. Fischer, associate dean for student conduct and risk management.

Details of incident discussed

The incident began as the twentieth birthday party of a Simmons resident, but the hosts ended up with "way more than they bargained for," said MIT Police officer Sean C. Munnelly, who investigated the incident.

Essigmann said that between one and two a.m., approximately 100 people arrived for the party via two side doors that were propped open, violating Simmons rules. One of the hosts, realizing the party had gotten out of hand and unaware that police had indeed been called, told the residents that the police were coming in order to "disperse the crowd," wrote Essigmann in an e-mail.

As the students vacated, they ran down ten flights of stairs in a "stampede," which Associate Housemasters Muriel and John Medard referred to as "one of the most terrifying things they have ever seen" according to Essigmann's e-mail.

Mulnelly said that a "lot of empty alcohol bottles" were present, and the lights were dimmed with

Following the incident, the housemasters discussed the events with the Simmons government, and the case was determined to be "sufficiently dangerous" to be referred to the Office of the Dean for Student Life, Essigmann said. The Simmons government could have pursued a parallel investigation, but instead chose to focus on the community forums, he said.

Late nights at the *Tech* office...who knows what will happen? join@tt.mit.edu

January 5, 2005

Anna's Taqueria to Open Feb. 1

By Kathy Lin

Anna's Taqueria, which will be located on the first floor of the Student Center, is slated to open with the start of the spring semester.

We are "shooting for February first" as the opening date, said owner Michael Kamio.

"In the worst case scenario, we'd open on Monday the seventh," said Director of Campus Dining Richard D. Berlin. "It really depends on if there are issues with the construction," he said.

The agreement between MIT and Anna's Taqueria "was all completed before the holidays, so that's all set," Berlin said.

Workers are currently rehabbing

the location, formerly occupied by Arrow Street Crepes. "Designs have been developed and approved," Berlin said, and they are "tearing out what they don't want and keeping the parts that they do want."

When construction is finished, the Student Center location will "look like the other locations," except for some more modern furniture and lighting to go with the high-tech feel of MIT, Kamio said. It will have "a nice warm yellow color" and a "kitchen-y feel," he said

Unlike Arrow Street Crepes, which had a lot of counter seating facing the windows, Anna's Taqueria will have more seating arranged so that people can "eat together as groups," making the environment "more conversational," Berlin said.

Most of the current construction "is being handled by Anna's themselves," as much of the "more hard-core mechanical stuff" had already been done by MIT back when preparations were being made to bring in Arrow Street Crepes, he said.

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Former MIT Professor Nominated to Cabinet

By Rick Klein

THE BOSTON GLOBE

WASHINGTON

President Bush has nominated Samuel W. Bodman ScD '65, the deputy secretary of the Treasury Department, to be the new energy secretary, turning to the longtime Boston business executive and former MIT professor as he rounds out the Cabinet for his second term.

Bodman, who spent more than 30 years in the private sector in Boston before joining the Bush administration in 2001 as deputy secretary of the Commerce Department, will be charged with shepherding the president's long-stalled energy legislation through Congress, including the controversial proposal to allow oil drilling at Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Bush said he would look to Bodman to help control energy costs and promote conservation.

"We will pursue more energy close to home, in our own country and in our own hemisphere, so that we're less dependent on energy from unstable parts of the world," Bush said at the announcement ceremony in the White House's Roosevelt Room. "Sam Bodman has shown himself to be a problem solver who knows how to set goals and he knows how to reach them."

If confirmed by the Senate, Bodman would replace Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham. Nine of Bush's 15 Cabinet members are not staying for his second term, but the president has moved quickly to fill vacancies.

Bodman, 66, assumed his post as Treasury's number two official in February, after nearly three years at the Commerce Department. He previously spent nearly 15 years leading the Boston-based Cabot Corp., a chemical manufacturing company, and 16 years in high-profile posts at Fidelity Investments. Before that, he served six years as an associate professor of chemical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he was among the youngest faculty members and where he received a doctor of science degree.

"The job as Energy Secretary, in many ways, combines all aspects of my life's professional work," Bodman said in accepting Bush's nomination. "If confirmed by the Senate, my colleagues and I at the Department of Energy stand ready to carry forward [the president's] vision of sound energy policy to ensure a steady supply of affordable energy for America's homes and businesses, and to work toward the day when America achieves energy independence."

The choice of Bodman caught some in the energy industry by surprise; his name was not among those floated when Abraham announced in November that he was stepping down, and the energy interests that Bodman oversaw at

Cabot were fairly limited. But Bodman was recommended for the job by his former boss, outgoing Commerce Secretary Donald Evans, who is a close friend of Bush.

Abraham, a former Michigan senator, also had little energy experience before taking the post, and critics have accused Vice President Dick Cheney of micromanaging energy policy. Those who know Bodman say he will bring to the job a mix of academic, private-sector, and public-sector experience, as well as a sharp intellect.

"If anybody can figure out these issues the Energy Department is dealing with, Sam could do it," said Kennett F. Burnes, Bodman's successor as Cabot's chief executive, who had worked under him since during most of his stay at Cabot. "His mind is extraordinarily creative and innovative. He has an ability to see things in a very broad and yet comprehensive way."

Bodman will assume the post at a time of high oil prices, as winter begins and demand is set to rise. Aside from the energy legislation, which Bush has said he remains committed to passing, Bodman will be charged with developing a long-term storage solution for waste from nuclear power plants, amid budgetary pressures, terrorism concerns, and local opposition in Nevada, where the Bush administration wants waste stored at Yucca Mountain.

While working for Fidelity, Bodman launched Fidelity Ventures, a venture capital business, and rose to become president of FMR Corp., Fidelity's holding company. During his tenure there, Fidelity became a far bigger player in the financial services industry.

At Cabot, Bodman oversaw 45 manufacturing plants in 25 countries, and developed and later sold off businesses that produced oil and gas and that ran the liquefied natural gas terminal in Boston Harbor. Analysts credit him with stabilizing a company that had shaky finances, and with paring down and strengthening its business interests, boosting share values.

"He completely turned the company around," said Michael Judd, an analyst at Greenwich Consultants who focuses on Cabot. "They took a company that was basically a sleepy, high-cost company, and they cut a lot of costs and created a lot of shareholder value. He's very deliberate and very smart."

Bush's nomination of Bodman drew praise from energy lobbying and business groups, which said his background in science, engineering, finance, and the private sector leaves him well prepared for the new job.

"Sam Bodman is a chemical engineer, knows the energy industry, and has a wealth of experience in finance and manufacturing," said Tom Reilly, president of the American Chemistry Council. "The president picked the right man."

Solution to KRT Crossword from page 6 C|Z|A|R|I|S| PIN HONOREE RUSTIER ONE E Y E S S I M T N M D L O D A TBOSS SWAGMEN O[M]E[R]AMFMRADIO T|E|Q|U|I|L|A|S| O[N]A[N]D[O]NB|L|A|S|T|E|R STA S T D R|O|M TED H I C URI | L | E A R A I L L W I N D CAN DEF PLEASES A R E

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Page 10 THE TECH January 5, 2005

Students Make the Most of IAP | MBTA May Terminate

IAP, from Page 1

Engineering Career Fair, DeSieno said, "I'm going to try to get in shape for the Boston marathon.'

Jason Park '05 plans to do some relaxing on top of working on his UROP. As the president of the Asian American Association, he's planning to do "some low-key fun stuff for people who are still herego to Chinatown, maybe some community service, go out and have some fun, and maybe a ski trip,' said Park. Much of his time will also be committed to the volleyball team. "It takes up a lot of time, but it's always worth it," Park said.

But what will be the most timeconsuming is his thesis/UROP work. "We're working on gene fabrication — the ability to make cheaply, efficiently, and quickly, DNA of arbitrary length and sequence," he said.

Countless other activities are being held this month, some of them wackier than others. Students can take an introduction to fly fishing, tour the Boston Public Library, learn how to make chocolate truffles or roll Japanese sushi, do some blacksmithing, or create stopmotion animation using robots and that's just during the first



The MIT Logarhythms put on their annual winter concert in Kresge, Saturday evening, Dec. 11, 2004.



Yogurt-covered pretzels — Every Tuesday night this Jan.

Whoa!! I can learn **COOL STUFF** this IAP!!



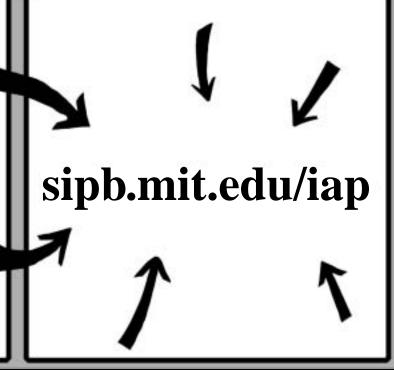
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Night Owl Bus Service

By Anthony Flint THE BOSTON GLOBE

Desperate to dig out of a \$16 million budget hole, the T is considering cutting the Night Owl bus ser-

vice, which ferries late-night passengers home on weekends, after the rest of the transit system shuts down, a top MBTA official said.

In addition, seven bus routes privately operated, but funded by the T — that average a total of 1,750 weekday passengers from the suburbs into Boston and from Framingham to Marlborough are being targeted for elimination. The state has not decided whether it will pick up the \$2 million annual cost to run the routes.

The Night Owl service, begun in 2001, has been singled out for elimination first, because revenue from its relatively small ridership does not come close to covering the \$1.4 million annual cost. The bus service, which some say helps to prevent drunken driving, has been cut back, but may have to go entirely, the senior MBTA official said this

The T has to come up with \$16 million in savings to bring its \$1.1 billion budget into balance by the time the fiscal year ends next summer. Much of the focus is on trimming the payroll through retirements, a hiring freeze, and, as a last resort, layoffs, said the T official, who spoke on condition of anonymity

But cuts in service must also be considered, and routes with low ridership are the natural first candidates, the official said.

This month, the T said that after Jan. 2 it would close two Boston Harbor ferry lines, from North Station to the South Boston Waterfront and to Charlestown, arguing that the low ridership didn't justify the \$710,000 annual cost.

Joe Pesaturo, spokesman for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, said, "We are not ready to get into specifics, and no final decisions have been made." But he added that "corrective actions will have to be taken."

This month MBTA General Manager Michael Mulhern blamed the budget shortfall on unexpectedly high fuel prices and sharp increases in healthcare costs for the T's

approximately 6,000 employees.

The shortfall is not because of decreases in ridership, MBTA officials say, though the agency has been unable to attract many new riders since an across-the-board fare hike took effect in January. Two years ago, a similar \$18 million budget gap was attributed to a decline in riders and a decrease in state sales tax revenue.

Mulhern is preparing to go before the MBTA board as early as next month with recommendations to close the budget gap.

Mulhern has also said that the budget problems illustrate why the T cannot afford to expand without more money from the state. Local officials, residents, and environmental activists are pushing for projects, including those promised 15 years ago in return for the Big Dig.

The Night Owl is made up of five local bus routes — between Government Center and Newton and Watertown, between Harvard Square and Roxbury, between Roxbury and Mattapan Square, and between Harvard Square and Roxbury via Allston and Brookline and nine so-called rail buses that parallel subway lines, all running from 1 to 2:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. The fare ranges from \$1.50 to \$4, compared to the usual fare of 90 cents.

The service started off with a bang, but ridership dwindled last year to an average 1,900 per weekend night. It brought in only \$24,500 in cash in 2002.

Those who argue for keeping the service, including nightclub owners and Councilor Michael Ross, who represents Back Bay and Fenway, say that few world-class cities shut down their public transit as early as 12:30 a.m., as Boston does.

Instead of eliminating the Night Owl, Ross said the service should be expanded, possibly to the overnight hours from Thursday into Friday.

"It's working for young people, working people, and anyone who can't afford an outrageously expensive cab ride late at night," he said

Within the MBTA, however, the service is viewed dimly. Drivers must be paid more to work the Night Owl's hours. Even with the higher fare, there aren't enough riders to cover the costs of operating the buses, T officials say.

The same is true, T officials say, for the regional bus lines that the T is considering cutting: six privately operated weekday routes feeding into Boston from Taunton, Northborough, Newburyport, Worcester, Hudson-Marlborough, Plymouth via Kingston, and Plymouth via Duxbury and Marshfield, as well as one bus from Framingham to Marlborough.

These are low-volume, high subsidy routes," the senior T official

The Northborough-to-Boston line gets the lightest use, with an average of 20 riders per weekday, while the Plymouth-to-Boston lines are the most popular, with 445 riders per weekday. By contrast, the most heavily used T buses carry several thousand people every day.

The T was forced to pick up the annual \$2 million cost of those suburban routes in 2000 when the Legislature did not include it in the state budget. Budget-cutters at the T are hoping the state will take over funding the routes, but otherwise are ready to shut off T funding, which would end the service

Jon Carlisle, spokesman for state Transportation Secretary Daniel A. Grabauskas, confirmed that "reductions in the [suburban] bus program are on the table for discussion at the

"The state would have to employ the same kind of critical eye to the maintenance of the bus service that the MBTA does," he said.

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Hard or Soft?

The choice between soft and hard furniture is among the main considerations of a committee charged with evaluating future uses of the space currently occupied by the

Cashier's Office.

The idea is to create a community space "with a student focus," said Deborah R. Poodry, Director

for Capital Project Development.

News

Brief

Soft furniture, such as that on the first floor of the Student Center, would allow students "informal access to sit and do things," while hard furniture would be ideal for a study space, Poodry said. Both

these uses of the space were suggested at a forum held in December, attended mostly by students, she

In past few months, the committee also studied other spaces around campus and "what's been more and less successful" about them, she said. They will send a report of their findings in the coming weeks to Chancellor Phillip L. Clay, she said.

No date has been set for the move of the Cashier's Office from its present location, said Assistant Accounting Officer Cheryl A. Whelan.

Assistant to the Controller Paul J. Arsenault said that there is presently no schedule for announcing the date of the move, but the MIT community will receive two months notice before the office relocates. —Kelley Rivoire



David I. Widerhorn '08 wins the two level eating contest put on by the Undergraduate Association Committee on Student Life last December. Widerhorn finished first against a classmate in the initial hot-dog contest and proceeded to win against all classes in the final round of hamburgers.

Visa Problems Delay Some Grad Students

Internationals, from Page 1

ten years.

Entry to U.S. delayed for some

Although the number of foreign students nationwide has been on a steady decline, administrators in the Departments of Chemical Engineering, Physics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and Mathematics said that foreign student enrollment has not been greatly affected by the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Students have experienced delays, but none were barred from admission.

Suzanne E. Easterly, academic administrator in the Department of Chemical Engineering, said that no foreign graduate students accepted to MIT in her department were denied entry into the U.S., but a few were delayed by visa problems.

administrator in the Department of Physics, said a "small handful" of delays occurred because of the short period between when foreign students are accepted and when they arrive. Countries such as Russia, China, and Germany have slow visa clearance processes, he said. Consistent with previous years, the percentage of international students in the department remained at 50 per-

Sixty percent of the graduate students in the mathematics department are international students. Associate Mathematics Professor Pavel I. Etingof said that students from Iran, Russia, Pakistan, and China have experienced visa troubles, resulting in arrivals as late as October. Some students choose not to return to their home country over the summer for fear of not being able to return.

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Graduate Resident Tutor (GRT) Info. Sessions:

January 10 @ 7pm at Sidney-Pacific January 21 @ 3pm in the GSC Office (50-220)

GRTs are full time enrolled MIT graduate students who live in MIT undergraduate residence halls to foster a safe and supportive living environment.

Eligibility

- $\check{ ext{S}}$ Full time graduate students, single or with families, registered at MIT, or in a combined program with MIT and another institution, may apply.
- $\check{ ext{S}}$ Students must be registered in a multi-year program and be at a point in their studies where they will likely be staying at MIT for several more years.
- Š An international student on any type of visa who already has a Research Assistantship or a Teaching Assistantship at MIT requiring over ten hours of work per week should not apply because acceptance of a position would result in over twenty hours of employment, in violation of U.S. law.

Compensation

 $\check{ ext{S}}$ This position is considered employment, minimum ten hours per week and includes a meal stipend and free housing.

For More Information

- Š Visit: web.mit.edu/residence/grt new.hml
- Š Contact: Joy Galarneau (joyeg@mit.edu, 617.452.4280)

Applications due January 28, 2005.

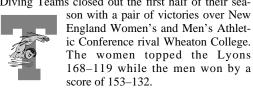
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SPORTS

Women's, Men's Swim Teams Earn Wins Against Wheaton

By Victoria Anderson TEAM ALUMNA

The MIT Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Teams closed out the first half of their sea-



The men won despite the disqualification of two relay teams in the first event, the 200-yard medley relay, including their top team. The Beavers' success in the event was due to Matthieu Fuzellier '05, Kalvin D. Kao '08, Jeffrey J. Pan '07, and Nemanja L. Spasojevic '05, who won the event over the top team fielded by Wheaton.

The Beavers pulled together for the individual events after the disappointing double disqualification in the first relay. Both Kao and Craig M. Edwards '07 took two individual events apiece, Edwards topping the 200 free and the 200 back, Kao winning the 200 breast and the 200 IM. Edwards recorded a provisional NCAA Division III

national qualification time in the 200 backstroke.

The Men's squad finished off the meet with a victory in the 200 free relay to avenge the earlier relay disqualifications. Fuzellier, Grady A. Snyder '06, Jonathan S. Varsanik '05, and Edwards topped the other teams.

The Women's team had a better meet than the Men's team in terms of individual victories, with Julianna K. Edwards '08 taking three events and Doria M. Holbrook '08 and Katherine C. Thornton '07 taking two each.

Edwards touched first in her signature events, the 100 and 200 back, as well as the 200 IM. Thornton took a break from the 1000 free, an event that she consistently tops the field in, and won the 100 breast and the 500 free instead. Holbrook continued her dominance in the diving events, taking first place on both the 1-meter and 3-meter boards.

The victory over Wheaton leaves the Women's team with a record of 7–0 and the Men's team with a 5–1 record. Both squads break from competition until the weekend of Jan 15 and 16, when they travel to Brandeis on the 15th and host Springfield on the 16th.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Thursday, January 6

Varsity Women's Basketball vs. Springfield College,

Saturday, January 8

Varsity Women's Basketball vs. U.S. Coast

Guard Academy,Rockwell Cage, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, January 11

Varsity Men's Basketball vs. Worcester Polytechnic Institute,Rockwell Cage, 7 p.m.





SCOREBOARD FOR SWIMING, DIVING MEETS

MIT Women vs. Wheaton: 168–119					
	<u>Event</u>	Place		Result	
	200 Medley Relay	2	MIT-A (Julianna K. Edwards '08, Katherine C. Thornton '07, Annika S. Larsson '08, Jacquelyn M. Nowicke '08) MIT-B (Jennifer A. La'O '05, Melissa E. Dere '06,	1:55.93	
		5	Jessica A. Harpole '07, Jennifer J. DeBoer '05)	1:59.71	
	1000 Free	1	Sasha B. Brophy '08	11:24.91	
		2	Maryann E. Racine '06	11:44.01	
	200 Free	1	Nowicke	2:04.32	
		3	Katrina M. Cornell '06	2:08.55	
	100 Back	1	Edwards	1:02.51	
	100 Breast	1 2	Thornton Moria C. Chambers '06	1:11.74 1:14.51	
	200 Fly	1	La'O	2:16.92	
		2	Dere	2:22.07	
	50 Free	2	DeBoer	26.55	
	1 Meter Diving	1	Doria M. Holbrook '08	216.83	
		2	Ashley R. Rothenberg '05	171.75	
		3	Jaryn E. Finch '05	143.10	
	100 Free	2 3	Brophy Nowicke	56.88 56.94	
	200 Back	1	Edwards	2:10.40	
	200 Breast	1	Dere	2:36.18	
		2	Chambers	2:38.09	
	500 Free	1	Thornton	5:21.93	
		2	DeBoer	5:34.38	
		3	Lindsey R. Sheehan '07	5:48.12	
	100 Fly	2 3	Larsson La'O	1:02.34 1:02.70	
	3 Meter Diving	1	Holbrook	242.63	
	Č	2	Rothenberg	162.08	
		3	Finch	154.20	
	200 IM	1 2	Edwards Dere	2:14.02 2:23.76	
	200 Free Relay	1	MIT-A (DeBoer, Nowicke, Brophy, Erin M. Zoller '05)	1:44.99	
		3	MIT-B (Thornton, Harpole, Laura B. Shimmin '05, Larsson)	1:47.55	
	MIT Men vs. Wheaton: 153–132				
	Event	Place		Result	
	200 Medley Relay	1	MIT-B (Matthieu Fuzellier '05, Kalvin D. Kao '08, Jeffrey J. Pan '07, Nemanja L. Spasojevic '05)	1:43.17	
	1000 Free	2	Matthew G. Angle '07	10:49.07	
	1000 1100	3	Harrison K. Hall '08	10:52.33	
	200 Free	1	Craig M. Edwards '07	1:49.02	
	100 Back	2	Kao	56.98	
	100 Breast	1	Joseph P. Carlucci '05	59.60	
		2	Jeffrey B. Gilbert '05,	1:04.77	
		2 3	Josiah B. Rosmarin '06	1:04.78	
	200 Fly	2	Pan	2:09.43	
1	•	3	Neil J. Kelly '06	2:13.23	

Ionathan S Varsanik '05 50 Free 1 Meter Diving 100 Free 48.60 49.98 1:54.31 1:56.21 Michael D. Dimitriou '06 200 Back Fuzellier 2:15.76 2:19.01 200 Breast Kao Gilbert 500 Free Snyder Davin F. Fan '08 5:13.29 57.40 2:00.44 Carlucci 2:11.09 MIT-A (Fuzellier, Snyder, Varsanik, Edwards) MIT-B (Carlucci, Dimitriou, Fan, Spasojevic) 200 Free Relay 1:26.39 1:32.74

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